



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

March 17, 2006

**SEMINOLE COUNTY CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED
ON FEDERAL FIREARMS AND NARCOTICS CHARGES**

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge Gregory A. Presnell today sentenced JOHNNY LOUIS TYLER, age 24, of Seminole County, Florida, to 10 years' and 10 months' imprisonment on a four-count indictment charging him with possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute, possession of more than five grams of "Crack" with the intent to distribute, carrying a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. In addition to the prison sentence, TYLER must serve five years supervised release, complete 150 hours community service and pay a special assessment of \$400. TYLER was found guilty on February 8, 2006, after a federal jury trial.

According to the evidence presented at trial, on November 18, 2004, Seminole County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call about a suspicious vehicle blocking a lane of traffic at the intersection of Lake Howell Road and Howell Branch Road in Winter Park. The vehicle was in gear and the engine was running. When deputies arrived, they found TYLER asleep in the driver's seat, his foot resting on the brake, grasping an open bottle

of liquor. Underneath TYLER's right leg was a loaded firearm. When TYLER subsequently was removed from his vehicle, deputies recovered five plastic bags of cocaine from a center console that were packaged for distribution. As a previously convicted felon, TYLER is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms and ammunition.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. In Brevard and Seminole Counties the State Attorney, Norm Wolfinger, is calling his PSN effort "Operation Cease Fire." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka of the Brevard County State Attorney's Office.